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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/762,698	01/22/2004	Paul B. Moody	260-010 LOT9-2003-0111US1	5260
44185	7590	02/02/2007	EXAMINER	
LOTUS AND RATIONAL SOFTWARE			ALI, OMAR R	
McGuinness & Manaras LLP			ART UNIT	
125 NAGOG PARK			PAPER NUMBER	
ACTON, MA 01720			2109	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/02/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/762,698

Applicant(s)

MOODY ET AL.

Examiner

Omar Abdul-Ali

Art Unit

2109

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the original filing of January 22, 2004. Claims 1-32 are pending and have been considered below.

1. Examiner's Note. The Applicant appears to be attempting to invoke 35 U.S.C. 112 6th paragraph in Claims 11, 12, 13, 14, 19, and 20, by using "means-plus-function" language. However, the Examiner notes that the only "means" for performing these cited functions in the specification appears to be computer program modules. While the claims pass the first test of the three-prong test used to determine invocation of paragraph 6, since no other specific structural limitations are disclosed in the specification, the claims do not meet the other tests of the three-prong test. Therefore, 35 U.S.C. 112 6th paragraph has not been invoked when considering these claims below.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "58", "71", and "17" have all been used to designate the dynamically linked library in the specification; reference characters "180" and "182" have both been used to designate a display; reference character "302" has been used to designate both a basic activity sharing check box and a history of document accesses sharing checkbox in the specification; the drawings do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 561. Corrected drawing sheets

Art Unit: 2109

in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. A carrier wave is a form of energy and does not fall within one of the four categories of patent eligible subject matter recited in 35 U.S.C. 101 (process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent

Art Unit: 2109

granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 21, 23, 25, 27, 31, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kaminsky et al. (US 2005/0055405).

Claims 1, 11, 21, 31, and 32: Kaminsky discloses a method, system, and computer program product for managing status information for instant messaging users comprising:

- a. obtaining an online status of a remote computer system user (page 3, paragraph 46);
- b. presenting an indication of said online status of said remote computer system user (page 3, paragraph 46);
- c. obtaining an updated status message associated with said remote computer system user (page 4, paragraph 55);
- d. modifying indication of said online status of said remote computer system user to include an indication that said updated status message is available (page 4, paragraph 48).

Claims 3, 13, and 23: Kaminsky discloses a method, system, and computer program product for managing status information for instant messaging users as in Claims 1, 11, and 21 above, further comprising:

Art Unit: 2109

a. presenting updated status message [distracted, temporarily distracted, I am distracted at the moment, but I'll reply to messages soon] to a local user in response to local user selecting said representation of remote user (page 4, paragraph 50).

Claims 5, 15, and 25: Kaminsky discloses a method, system, and computer program product for managing status information for instant messaging users as in Claims 1, 11, and 21 above, further comprising:

a. representation of remote computer system is maintained by awareness client application process on said local computer system (page 2, paragraph 25).

Claims 7, 17, and 27: Kaminsky discloses a method, system, and computer program product for managing status information for instant messaging users as in Claims 1, 11, and 21 above, further comprising:

a. online status includes and indication of whether remote user is available for an IM session (page 4, paragraph 47).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2109

7. Claims 2, 6, 12, 16, 22, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaminsky et al. (US 2005/0055405) in view of Kontny et al. (US 2004/0183829).

Claims 2, 12, and 22: Kaminsky discloses a method, system, and computer program product for managing status information for instant messaging users as in Claims 1, 11, and 21 above, but does not explicitly disclose presenting an updated status message to the local user of said local system in response to hovering the cursor over the representation of the remote user. Kontny discloses a similar system for a dynamic collaboration assistant that further discloses hovering over a respective contact in the instant message buddy list using a mouse generates a GUI that contains contact information. This information may incorporate current availability (page 5, paragraph 47). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a hovering function to display status information of a remote user. One would have been motivated to present a status message of a remote user by using a hovering function for quick access of profile information.

Claims 6, 16, and 26: Kaminsky discloses a method, system, and computer program product for managing status information for instant messaging users as in Claims 1, 11, and 21 above. Kontny discloses a similar system for a dynamic collaboration assistant that further discloses the representation of said remote computer system user is displayed in a messenger service application and a web server application (page 3,

Art Unit: 2109

paragraphs 27 and 34). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that a user may be represented in another application process other than the original awareness client process in Kaminsky. One would have been motivated to display the representation of a user in another awareness application process in order to keep track of other users who may not be using the original awareness application, but are logged into an email application that allows instant messaging.

8. Claims 4, 8, 14, 18, 24, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaminsky et al. (US 2005/0055405).

Claims 4, 14, and 24: Kaminsky discloses a method, system, and computer program product for managing status information for instant messaging users as in Claims 1, 11, and 21 above, further comprising presenting an updated status message to a local user of the local computer system (page 3, paragraph 46), but does not explicitly disclose removing the indication that said updated status message associated with said remote computer system user is available responsive to presenting of updated status.

However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to remove the indication of a new status message after presenting the new status message. It is common in email applications that new messages are represented with bold text and previously opened messages are not.

One would have been motivated to remove the indication of a new status message after

Art Unit: 2109

presenting the new status message in order to allow the local user to determine when subsequent new status messages for the remote user are available.

Claims 8, 18, and 28: Kaminsky discloses a method, system, and computer program product for managing status information for instant messaging users as in Claims 1, 11, and 21 above, but does not explicitly disclose presenting said indication that said updated status message associated with said remote user is available for a predetermined time after obtaining said updated status message. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to present the indication of a new status message for a predetermined time. One would have been motivated to limit the time an indication of a new status message is available because after a number of hours, the status message may change and a new indication would need to be provided.

9. Claims 9, 10, 19, 20, 29, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaminsky et al. (US 2005/0055405) in view of Godefroid et al. (US 6,697,840).

Claims 9, 19, and 29: Kaminsky discloses a method, system, and computer program product for managing status information for instant messaging users as in Claims 1, 11, and 21 above, but does not explicitly disclose presenting an interface to the local user to indicate whether an indication of that an updated status message associated with said

Art Unit: 2109

user is available is provided to others. Godefroid discloses a similar method and apparatus implementing presence awareness in collaborative systems, that further discloses that queries regarding the private data of a user, for example, whether the user is available, can be allowed or disallowed (column 6, lines 12-18). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to specify whether the updated status message in Kaminsky is allowed to be accessed by remote users. One would have been motivated to specify if a new status message is available for privacy purposes.

Claims 10, 20, and 30: Kaminsky discloses a method, system, and computer program product for managing status information for instant messaging users as in Claims 1, 11, and 21 above. Godefroid discloses a similar method and apparatus implementing presence awareness in collaborative systems, that further discloses presenting an interface to a local user that enables said user to specify one or more users with which access to private data [updated status message] is to be allowed or disallowed (column 6, lines 12-18). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to specify which users may be presented with an indication of a new status message. One would have been motivated to specify which users can view an indication of a new status message for privacy purposes.

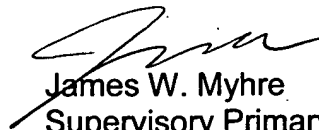
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Omar Abdul-Ali whose telephone number is 571-270-1694. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri(Alternate Fridays Off) 7:30 - 5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Myhre can be reached on 571-270-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OAA
01/17/2007


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